

MY PRETTY PRESENT



T. Nelson & Sons, New York

A decorative rectangular border with a repeating floral and vine motif surrounds the text.

CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION

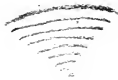


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WELLIE LEONARD

From

Mrs. D. D. Lockerby





MY PRETTY PRESENT.



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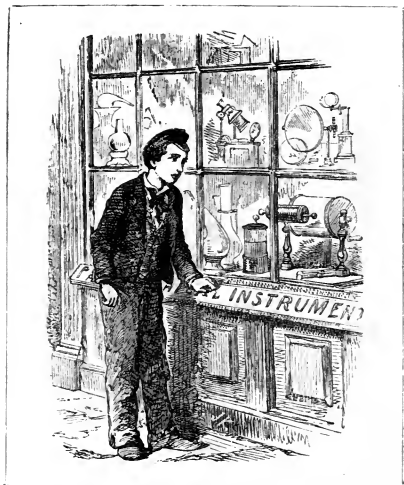
WISHING TO BUY.

How longingly these two sisters look at the pastrycook's window, and wish they could buy some cakes; but they have no money to spend in such things, and so they pass along the lamplit streets to the frugal supper waiting at home for their return from work. They remember that some are without food at all.



“DO YOU WANT A LAD?”

TEDDY'S father died suddenly, leaving little to live on, so Teddy wished to earn his bread, and going into an office, asked if they wanted a lad. One partner looked cross, but the other liked the boy's manner, and said, “Yes.” So Teddy got a place, and, by-and-by, became a partner, too.



“HOW I WISH I COULD BUY IT.”

“HOW I wish I could buy it,” was the thought in Edwin’s mind, when he saw a telescope in the optician’s window, for he longed to look at the stars. So what did he do?—why, saved up all his money until he had enough to buy the very thing he wanted, though it was months before he had sufficient.



A DIFFICULT SUM.

HARRY is pulling his hair, as if that would help him out of the difficulty. The figures won't come right, do what he will, and he has worked at it an hour. Many little boys would give it up; but Harry is persevering, and intends to go over the sum until he finds out his mistake.



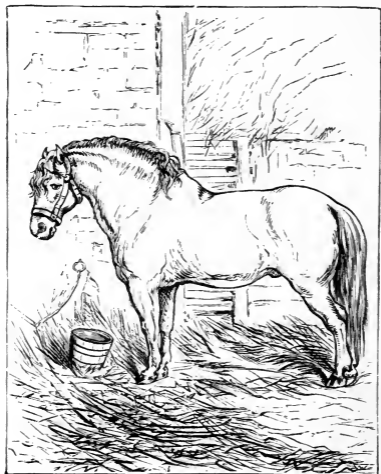
THE ROBIN.

PRETTY Robin Redbreast has come to beg for a few mouthfuls of the bright red cherries. Robin thinks that he has a claim, because he sings such sweet songs in the cold winter months. Whenever we call to mind the story of the "Babes in the Wood," we can never refuse to let Robin have a few cherries.



THE BUST.

HAVING the finishing touches put to his bust, this fine gentleman sits back in his easy chair, and admires himself in the marble of the sculptor, and hopes his friends will do the same, and that he will hear flattering remarks made on this work of art, which is indeed a very fine production.



WONDER, THE PONY.

WONDER we called him, because he really was so clever; he seemed to understand all we said, and would follow us about like a dog, and never needed a whip to make him go. He had a fancy for apples, and when he found none under the trees, would stand on his hind legs, and knock down the apples!



THE DONKEYS' BREAKFAST.

“WE are going for a ride to-day, aunt,” said May and Agnes; “will you come, too?” “Yes, dears, I will walk by your side; but first give Jacky and Jimmy their breakfast.” “We never forget to feed them, aunt,” said May; “look, here is my apron full of grass; and Agnes has some carrots, so they will have a feast.”



THE DONKEY RIDE.

BABY sits up in the pannier, holding tight by the sides, as he has been bid, while Ned leads the donkey, and nurse walks behind; and in this way, every morning through the summer, they go out as soon as breakfast is over. And baby enjoys his ride in a basket as much as papa does his ride on his horse.



THE CHILDREN'S RIDE.

As Tom and May were walking out one morning a cart came by, and the driver, seeing two little children, offered to give them a ride. He put them up on Robin's back, and the good horse quite understood he must step carefully along and obey the voice of his master, who guided him in this way without using a whip.



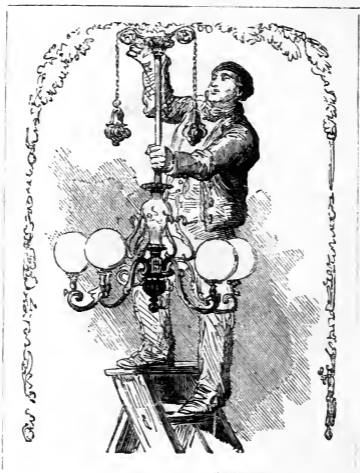
MILKING TIME.

IT is quite a treat for Charlie, whose home is in London, and who only came to the farm because he wanted change of air, to go and see the cows milked morning and evening, and Betsy the milkmaid gives him a little tumbler of warm milk, because she thinks it will make him stronger.



PUTTING UP THE CEILING.

WE heard a loud noise last night, and what do you think it was? Why in the morning there was the dining-room ceiling lying on the table! and we had to send off for the plasterer, and if you peep in at the open door, you will see him hard at work putting the ceiling together again as it was before.



THE GASFITTER.

THAT is right, Mr. Gasfitter ; fix up the lamps firmly, so that we can sit under them without fear of them falling down. Uncle is coming to-night to tell us of the countries he has travelled in, and we shall want all the light we can get to see the beautiful pictures he has brought with him, all painted by himself.



THE NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

AMONGST all their presents, and they had plenty, none gave such satisfaction to Jane and Annie as the picture-book which dear grandmamma made and sent as a new-year's gift. They are never tired of looking at it; and they each wrote a letter of thanks, which grandmamma keeps among her treasures.



“GO TO BED.”

“Go to bed, my little man, and don't stay where you are, it must be so very uncomfortable,” said kind Mrs. Johnson, when she found David asleep on a stool ; and roused by her voice, he went up to bed at once, for he had been taught always to do as he was told. He was very tired with his day's work.



WHAT POLITENESS DID.

IT certainly gained Thomas a place, for, hearing that a boy was wanted in a lawyer's office, he went there, and by his polite manner was chosen before any others; much to the disgust of John, who had made so sure of it, from his father knowing the lawyer, that he did not think it worth his while to be civil.



AN OLD SAILOR.

WHAT would this old sailor do if he had not his grandchild to help him as he walks along? He often says she is the handiest little woman he ever saw; for, now that his wife is dead and he is left alone, she looks after the cottage, and mends his clothes, and does everything with a smile, as if it was a pleasure.



THE COLT.

MAGGIE, going into the meadow this morning, found there a new pet—a colt, only three days old ; and being a kind little girl, she went up to it with a bunch of grass, but it was too young to eat it. Maggie looked afraid, as if she thought it might bite ; but such a young thing could do no harm to any one.



THE PLAYFUL KID.

PLAYFUL, indeed! — why, its little mistress can scarcely walk for its antics. Look how it springs off the ground with all four feet at once! I think, master kid, if you could see what a plentiful supper your mistress carries in her basket, you would leave off your gambols and run home to share it with your mother



AFTERNOON TEA.

AFTERNOON tea with Aunt Helen is a treat for the children, because, besides the store of cakes and biscuits provided on these occasions, auntie has so many amusing stories to tell them about the places she has seen and the people she has met that her nephews and nieces look upon her as a perfect wonder.



IMITATING PAPA.

BERTIE is very fond of doing what he sees others do, and now he is seated at the table, with an open book before him, seeming to read it, and leaning his face on his hand, looking all the while as grave as a judge; and this he calls imitating papa, who will laugh when he comes in and sees his little son.



A STEEP HILL.

THAT'S right, boys ; run, and help to push the cart up this steep hill ; for with such a load of sand poor Jacky will not easily reach the cliff ; and the next time you fill the cart, remember what a pull it is from the beach to the top of this cliff, and make the burden as light as you possibly can.



SPRING RHUBARB.

“SPRING rhubarb ; who’ll buy my rhubarb?” “Oh, do buy some, mamma!” cried Kate. “Very well, dear, I will. Your donkey looks well cared for.” “Oh, yes, ma’am ; he has a warm bed at night, and plenty to eat ; and I never need use a whip, for he knows my voice, and goes on or stops, just as I bid him.”



FEELING THE PULSE.

THE doctor sits with his watch in one hand, feeling his patient's pulse with the other; and he tells by its beating fast or slow whether the patient is very ill or not. What a wonderful thing our life is, and how soon it may be ended! We should take great care of the bodies which God has given us.



NEW YEAR'S CHIMES.

IT is a cold, snowy night, and a warm bed seems the most comfortable place to be in; but the ringers don't seem to mind the frost, and being determined to ring the old year out and the new in, have all assembled in the church tower, and are pulling away with all their might to wish all "A Happy New Year!"



HAPPY BEN.

BEN, the stonemason, sings as he works, for he says it lightens his labour, and that cheerful people get through the day quicker than sad ones; and he doesn't see why people shouldn't laugh if they can; which is such a wise remark that I advise all my little readers to follow it, and see if they do not feel better for it.



THE POLICEMAN.

YES, Mr. Policeman, you may well look astonished to find nobody here, after such a noise; but the fact is, when the boys heard you coming they all ran away as fast as possible; but as they really were not doing any harm, I don't think you need mind that, and I daresay they will be quieter now.



THE POT OF MONEY.

MARK, hunting about in a disused stable one day, found a pot hidden under the thatch, and looking into it saw that it contained money. At first he felt tempted to keep it, and tell no one, but then he remembered that that would be stealing, so he took it to his master, who promised to try and find out the owner.



KIND NORMAN AND ETTA.

WHEN Norman and Etta go on a visit to grandmamma they like feeding the poultry, and as they are very good children, and kind to all the pets, grandmamma never objects to it. Norman admires Chanty most, but Etta likes the chickens best, and saves the nicest morsels for them and their careful mother.



A VISITOR.

HOW pleased Mrs. Howard will be when she sees who her visitor is, for little Isabella will sit an hour with her, and after taking out of the basket the nice things she has brought for the old woman, she will read one of the beautiful Bible stories, and so give Mrs. Howard something to think of when she is alone.



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CHARLOTTE AND INQUI.

CHARLOTTE and her faithful dog, Inqui, have been out together, as usual, and while she gathered flowers, he watched that no one touched her basket. Now she is taking a nosegay to give to a poor little girl who is ill; for Charlotte always likes to share with others what she has herself.



MOTHER'S DARLINGS.

MOTHER would not go to bed happy without this peep at her darlings. She holds the light away from them, and whispering, "God bless them," goes away for the night. There is no care like a mother's; and we should return it by caring for her, and seeing that she has all the comforts we can give her in her old age.



DARNING SOCKS.

MOTHER'S work is never done, for after all the children are in bed, and the room is put tidy, and the hearth swept clean, there is plenty to do. The boots have to be dried before the fire, and holes darned in the socks, and strings and buttons sewn on to pinafores and frocks.



THE KIND CHILDREN.

WILLIE and Rose have been taught to be kind to the poor and aged, and here we see them taking some broth to refresh two weary travellers who sat down to rest near their mother's house ; and the old couple are very grateful to them, and will resume their journey all the better for the food and the kind words spoken.



IDLE ROBERT.

ROBERT was once a well-to-do young man, but from wasting his time, and spending all his money, when he earned any, in drinking and smoking, he soon grew poor, and now is commonly known as Idle Robert. He never goes to church, and is as he looks, very unhappy, for he knows it is wrong to behave as he does.



BOB'S FIRST PLACE.

IT was Bob's good conduct to his mother got him his first place, and this was how it happened. Bob helped his mother by taking the clothes home from the wash every week ; and one day a gentleman, who had often seen him do so, asked his mother if she could spare her son, as he wanted a lad, and she said, " Yes."



TIRED OUT.

THIS is Jimmy's first day at school, and the poor little fellow, tired with the walk, and the noise of the boys and girls at their lessons, and the excitement of being with so many children, has laid his head in his sister's lap; and the mistress has told her not to move, but to let the little man have a good rest.



“COME WITH ME.”

“COME with me, Bob,” said Bill ; “ I am going up the hills to get a load of gravel for our garden.” But lazy Bob preferred sitting on a gate to going with Bill, although Bill promised him blackberries and nuts if he came. Bob liked nuts and blackberries, but would take no trouble to get them.



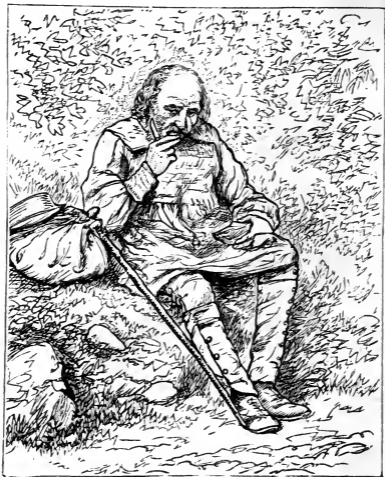
INDUSTRIOUS JACK.

VERY industrious Jack must have been to pile up so many oyster-shells. He stands with a smiling face and says, "Please to remember the grotto!" but no one takes notice. Perhaps the passers-by would give him something if they knew that any money he gets he would spend in buying oranges for his sick brother.



LEARNING HIS TRADE.

REGINALD is determined that whatever he does shall be done thoroughly, and in learning to be a shoemaker he does not mind the hard work, because he is anxious to get on, and to improve in his trade. It will be some time before he can make a shoe, but he learns fast, and his master is pleased with his work.



RESTING.

OLD John started at daybreak to walk to his daughter's house ; but he is not as young as he was, and walks so slowly that although it is now nine o'clock, he has four miles to go. Poor man ! he looks tired ; but his daughter and her children will give him such a hearty welcome that he will soon be cheerful again.



AFRAID.

OH, dear! oh, dear! what a fright little Bessie is in; she is screaming so loudly that all the household are rushing up to see what is the matter with her! and there really is nothing to alarm her, for Rocky is only pulling her frock, because he wants her to play with him, and that is his way of asking her.



NOT AFRAID.

THIS is Bessie's sister, Muriel, who is not afraid of Rocky, because she knows he wouldn't hurt her, and now, after a good romp in the garden, he is sitting, and saying as plainly as he can, "Dear mistress, give me a biscuit;" and Muriel says, "Shake hands, then, first;" and Rocky gives his paw at once.



THE CIVIL DONKEY-BOY.

MRS. MORTIMER wanted a donkey for her little girl to ride on, and, asking where she could hire one, was told that the best donkey belonged to George Brown ; and when she met George and his donkey, he was so civil and the donkey so well taken care of that she engaged him at once to come every day.



THE SAILOR'S RETURN.

AFTER an absence of many years, this is indeed a sad return home for the poor sailor, and he feels it bitterly. He had not heard from his mother for some months; but hoped to find her well; and now, alas! when he gets to his native village, he finds her dead and the cottage to let! No wonder he is sobbing.



HEN AND CHICKENS.

“CLUCK! cluck! cluck! keep close to me, my dears; you will get lost if you wander off into the high grass; cluck! cluck! Here’s some nice corn for you. Now don’t be greedy and push each other, there is quite room for all; behave well, my children, and don’t fight with your brothers and sisters.”



GAEL.

WHAT a fine head Gael has! He is a Scotch deerhound, and as fleet as the wind; but, although he loves a run, and can leap high fences with ease, he loves his master better, and will sit beside him, waiting until the book is laid down or the letter written; and he always sleeps on the mat at his master's door.



THE SHEEP DOG.

MANY clever anecdotes are told of these dogs; and when we see how sensibly they can fetch their master's sheep from out of a flock belonging to other people, we can quite believe all that we hear of their doings. Although the sheep dog barks, yet he never worries the sheep: by so doing it only serves as a warning.



ATTACKED BY WOLVES.

HAPPILY for us, in England there are no wolves ; but in Russia it is not an uncommon thing for travellers to be attacked by them, and even killed. I hope the poor man in this picture will reach that carriage before the wolves get hold of him, for it would be sad if he did not escape.



IDLENESS.

THERE never was such an idle boy as Dick, at least so his mother said, and as he was the youngest of six sons, she ought to know. Look at him now, he has stayed in bed till the last moment, and is only half-awake. Of course he will be late for school, and get bad marks for not knowing his lessons.



MAKING A NEW WHEEL.

MAKING a new wheel for the miller's waggon, which stuck in the mud last week so fast, that before they could drag it out again, the wheel was all to bits! Miles, the wheelwright, has promised to finish it by to-morrow night, and as he always keeps his word, I daresay it will be ready when the miller's man calls.



THE MOTHER'S PRAYER.

THIS good mother loves her two little children very dearly; and every night, when they are asleep, she kneels by their bedside to pray that God will help them and make them good and useful men, and take them to heaven when they die. And God, we are sure, will hear that mother's prayer.



“TEA IN THE WOOD.”

“MANY happy returns of the day, Mabel; how shall we spend your birthday?”
“Take tea in the wood,” cried all the children with one voice. “Agreed,” said mamma; so here they are as happy as can be, spreading out the things Dobbin carried in the hamper; but gathering sticks for a fire will be the best fun.



DILIGENCE.

LOOK at this pleasant little picture, and see with what care and diligence Walter does his sums. He is already in rule-of-three, and his master says that if he goes on as he has begun, he may one day become a celebrated man, and perhaps write books that will teach all the world.







